



Squirrel Hayes First School
Springfield Road
Biddulph
Stoke on Trent
ST8 7DF
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
Telephone: 01782 973820
Twitter: @squirrelhayes
Facebook: facebook.com/squirrelhayes

Friday 6th June 2025

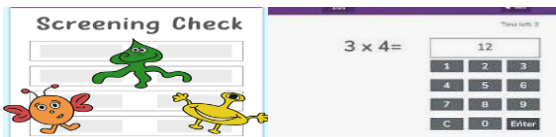
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back



We hope you had a lovely half term. As we step into the summer term, we are excited to welcome you back and update you with some of the up and coming activities and events we have planned.

Week beginning the 9th June 2025 Phonics Screener and MTC Checks



Commencing next week Year 1 will be undertaking their 'Phonics Screener Check' in the weeks beginning the 9th June. Learners in Year 2 who did not pass their Phonics Screener in Year 1 will also be sitting their re-sit in the same week.

Learners in Year 4 who are due to be transitioning to the Middle School will also be undertaking their MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) in the week beginning the 9th June. They have already been accessing the practice sessions before the test and are well prepared for the check.

Tuesday 10th June - Year 4 Transition Games - James Bateman Junior High School



On Tuesday 10th June Learners in Year 4 will be going to James Bateman Junior High School for the Year 4 games events as part of their transition to Middle School. This event will take place in the afternoon and all Learners will be transported by coach and will be back in time for the end of the school day. Year 4 Learners need to come to school in their school PE kit and have with them a sun hat and sun-cream in school. Should this be required.

Thursday 12th June - Additional Transition Day for some Year 4 Learners



On Thursday 12th June some of the Year 4 Learners will be visiting James Bateman for an additional Transition Day. Parents/Carers have already been informed and permission slips completed.

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These learners should be dropped off at James Bateman at 9:15am and picked up at 3:15 pm. They will also required to have a packed lunch and healthy snack.

WCET Celebration Concert 2025



As you will already be aware, as part of your child's curriculum they have been learning to play a musical instrument. Hydra have been learning to play the Recorder whilst Draco have been learning to play the Ukulele. Letters have been sent home regarding the learner's participation in a Music performance at the Symphony Hall Birmingham on the 16th June 2025 and how to order tickets if you want to go and watch the performance.

Important Information

The children will be taken by coach, leaving school at 7:30am and will be back at school before the end of the school day. Your child will need to be at school for 7:15am in the morning so that they can get their instrument ready and go through all the safety checks before the coach leaves.

School will be providing a morning snack and a packed lunch for your child along with access to their drinks. You will therefore not need to send your child into school with any food or refreshments.

Letters with a reminder of the details will be sent out next week. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Sports Day/Picnic Lunch & Summer Fun Fundraising Day- Tuesday 17th June 2025



This year we will be holding a Sports Day/Summer Fun Fundraising day on Tuesday 17th June. Fingers crossed the sun will be shining and we have decided to combine our sports day activities with some summer fair fundraising and a Picnic lunch. More details will follow on a separate letter.

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Wake up Wednesday – What You Need to Know about: Emojis

EMOJIS

They say a picture's worth a thousand words and when it comes to emojis, that's often true 📱😄💬 but in the wrong context, these innocent-seeming icons can take on a whole new meaning, sometimes hinting at things that aren't as light-hearted as they appear.

This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide breaks down some of the slang and symbols young people use online and explains how some could be masking real issues, from bullying and exclusion to harmful behaviours 📱👤. With our handy cheat sheet and top tips, adults can keep pace with this ever-changing digital language 📖👉

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over a billion emojis sent daily on Facebook, Messenger, iMessage, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍑 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 🍑 or 🍌 (leek) may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person sending emoji 🍑 (leek) might intend to be playful, but might now be responsible for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or abuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours or interests. 🍑 (thumbs up emoji) or 🍌 (leek emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🍷 (wine glass emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🍑 in 🍷 (leek + wine glass emoji) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍑 mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:	POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS
🍑 (Thumbs up) Friendship or celebrating someone	🍑 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (trends censorship algorithms)
🍌 (Leek) Cool, stylish or ruthless	🍷 (Wine glass) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
🍷 (Wine glass) Celebrating or excitement	🍑 (Leek) Can represent betrayal or being 'too toxic'
🍷 (Wine glass) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference	🍷 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🍷 (Wine glass) A warning sign about someone's behaviour	🍷 (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
	🍷 (Steaming bowl) Refers to racism ('steams' is an abbreviation of 'niggers')

Meet Our Expert

Kath Brown is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MEd from Queen's School of Business and Technology.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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Year 4 Leavers Transition Day to Middle School - Thursday 19th June



The Middle School will be sending a letter to you directly regarding the arrangements for this day, so please look out for this important letter.

Changes to contact details



Please can we remind parents that if any circumstances change i.e. phone numbers, emails or address details please could you let the school office know so we can update the system and have the correct details on file. **We always need two contact numbers in case of an emergency.**

Important Diary Updates



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Summer Term. Please note that we always try our best to stick to the planned dates and times but on occasion's changes have to be made due to unforeseen circumstances. If this is the case, we will always try to give you as much notice as possible. **Please note dates in blue have been added or changed:**

Summer Term 2025

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
Week beg 9 th June	Phonics Screener Check	Year 1 Year 2 re-sit learners
Week beg 9 th June	MTC (Multiplication Tables Check)	Year 4
Tuesday 10 th June	Y4 Transition Games - James Bateman	Year 4
Thursday 12 th June	Y4 Additional Transition Day - specific learners	Year 4 specific learners
Monday 16 th June	WCET Music Concert - Symphony Hall	Hydra Class & Draco
Tuesday 17 th June	Sports Day/Picnic Lunch/Summer Fun Fundraising	All classes
Thursday 19 th June	Year 4 Transition Day to Middle School	Year 4
Tuesday 24 th June	Reserve Sports/Fun Day	All classes
Thursday 3 rd July 2:30pm - 4:00pm	SMART Uniform in school with their pop-up shop	All classes
Saturday 5 th July	Biddulph Parade- Meeting 10:30am at the Library	Learners taking part
Monday 7 th July 3:30pm - 5:00pm	Parents/Carers Drop-in following reports going out	All classes

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Tuesday 8 th July pm	Year 2 learners Multi-Skills Event at James Bateman - pm during school time	Year 2
Thursday 10 th July	Party Day	All classes
Friday 11 th July	Last day with current class - Film and Disco celebrations	All classes
Week beginning the 14 th July - 18 th July	Transition Week - All learners move to their new classes in readiness for September 2025	All classes
Friday 18 th July 10:30am	Leavers Assembly and End of Year Awards Celebrations	All classes
Friday 18 th July 11:30am - 12:30pm	Year 4 leavers Lunch with guests	Year 4

Yours sincerely,
 Mrs E. J. Pickford (Headteacher) & Team

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